Appl. No. 09/708,913
Amdt. dated May 2, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 9, 2004

PATENT

Clean copy of independent claims 1, 13, 23, and 42

1   1.   A method for obtaining postage comprising:

2   accessing a first web server from a client system by communicating a first request

3   to said first web server;

4   in response to said first request, generating first HTML content at said first web

5   server and communicating said first HTML content to said client system, said first HTML

6   content containing postage-related content for obtaining postage;

7   displaying said first HTML content at said client system;

8   detecting user input at said client system which indicates a selection of postage,

9   said selection of postage being based at least on said postage-related content; and

10   communicating a second request from said client system to said first web server,

11   said first web server generating second HTML content containing information for printing an

12   indicium in response to said second request, said information for printing an indicium being

13   generated at a second web server separate from said first web server and communicated from

14   said second web server to said first web server, said client system receiving from said first web

15   server said information for printing an indicium.

1   13.   A computer program product for obtaining postage, said computer

2   program product executing on a data processor of a client system, the computer program product

3   comprising:

4   code configured to operate said data processor to perform a step of accessing a

5   first server by communicating a first request to said first web server;

6   code configured to operate said data processor to perform a step of receiving first

7   HTML content from said first server, said first HTML content including postage-related content

8   for obtaining postage;

9   code configured to operate said data processor to perform a step of displaying said

10   first HTML content;

11   code configured to operate said data processor to perform a step of detecting user

12   input indicating selection of postage;

13   code configured to operate said data processor to perform a step of

14   communicating a second request in connection with said user input to said first server, said first

15   server generating second HTML content containing information for printing an indicium in

16   response to said second request, said information for printing an indicium being generated at a

17   second server that is separate from said first server and communicated from said second server to

18   said first server; and

19   a computer-readable medium for storing said codes.

1   23.   A method for dispensing postage comprising:

2   receiving first requests for postage from one or more users at a first server system;

3   in response to receiving said one or more requests for postage, communicating

4   with a second server system that is separate from said first server system, including

5   communicating said requests for postage to said second server, said second server system

6   generating information for printing indicia and providing said information for printing indicia to

7   said first server system;

8   receiving said information for printing indicia from said second server system;

9   and

10   at said first server system, generating second HTML content containing said

11   information for printing indicia and communicating it to said one or more users to satisfy said

12   requests for postage.

1   42.   A method for distributing postage comprising:

2   providing a first server system configured as a web server;

3   providing a second server system configured as a web server separate from said

4   first server system;

5   receiving, at said first server system, requests for postage from users;

6   sending said requests for postage to said second server system, including

7   providing a payment mechanism to pay for said postage;

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8   generating postage at said second server system; and

9   dispensing said postage from said second server system to said first server system,

10   including transmitting postage indicia to said first server system and validating payment for said

11   postage based on said payment mechanism; and

12   generating HTML content containing said postage indicia and distributing said

13   HTML content from said first server system to satisfy said requests for postage.